

THE C.T. SCAN CAMPAIGN FOR ASBESTOS VICTIMS

c/o C L Y D E S I D E
ACTION ON ASBESTOS

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This is a national campaign being launched on behalf of Scottish victims of the asbestos industry. There are two immediate aims: 1) to raise money that will allow a C. T. Scan for every asbestos victim who requires it; 2) to highlight the need for the C. T. Scan as a formality within our national health service.

Under the existing rules and regulations people who seek cash allowances under the Diseases Benefit Scheme run by the DSS have to prove 'causation'. They have to show that the disability they have is a direct effect of exposure to asbestos dust. What this means is that traces of asbestos dust have to be found inside them, usually in their lungs. It isn't enough that a man's work-record shows he has been working directly with asbestos for the past forty or fifty years, nor is it enough that a man's wife has been laundering his workclothes for that period of time. The state requires further 'evidence'. In other words if you exhibit the symptoms of asbestos-related diseases plus the fact that you have been exposed directly to asbestos dust - through no fault of your own - is not regarded as proof that you are a victim of asbestos dust.

At present the DSS demands medical reports from a minimum of SEVEN doctors for each individual person who makes a claim for disability allowance; your own G.P., three from the pneumoconiosis panel-board plus three or more at the respiratory department at the Royal Infirmary which involves a team of physiotherapists and is so rigorous those who have had to endure it have collapsed. Frequently the claimant must undergo a biopsy to provide proof to the authorities. Or to undergo two biopsies.